



Message from Julie Blanchard, Town Council Chairwoman

Thank you to the citizens who voted in our recent municipal election and have given me the opportunity to serve on the Town Council. Your new Town Council has gotten right down to work and are familiarizing themselves with the projects underway and the potential projects and purchases that could be coming in the future. One of our most daunting and important annual tasks is to create a budget and that has already begun. I would appreciate hearing from the any citizen at any time. Please email me at jblanchard@coventryct.org or find me on Facebook and send me a message. I hope that everyone had a happy and safe holiday season.

See the back page of this newsletter for the adopted Town Council Goals.

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TOWN HALL HOLIDAYS:

- Jan. 18 - Martin Luther King Day
- Feb. 15 - Presidents’ Day
- Mar. 25 - Good Friday



Replacement of Pucker Street Bridge

TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

The new year always marks changes. This holds true for the Town also. We welcome a new Town Council and their new goals, which are shared by Julie Blanchard, Chairwoman. It also means we are working on a new budget for July 1. You have a role in helping determine this budget by speaking out at the Annual Budget Hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 10th in the Lecture Hall of Coventry High School at 7 PM.

Many new projects will be starting this spring. The long-awaited Rt. 31 hill project in the Village will start. Traffic will be alternating one lane for much of the construction as the road is straightened and made less steep. Textured sidewalks and crosswalks, period lighting, banner poles and other amenities will be

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TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

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“Up on the hill another grant will allow us to get the sidewalk from the middle school to Ripley Hill.”

Comings & Goings and Staff Accomplishments

Welcome to **Mason Perrone**, new Planning & Zoning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer. We are pleased that Mason brings a thorough knowledge of GIS mapping systems to his role with the Town, allowing us to continue those services without missing a beat. Police Officer **Wayne Greener** has completed his field training and recently received an award from the Police Officers Standards and Training Council for perfect scores in his firearms tests while at the Police Academy. **Kelsey Carpenter** joins the Police Department this month and will be at the Police Academy until April. Welcome aboard! The Police Department also recently won first place in the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association's Annual Law Enforcement Challenge, their sixth year in a row to receive this distinction. Town Manager **John Elsesser** has been elected second vice president of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Congratulations to all of our staff for their accomplishments.

added. The project will start at Rt. 275 and end at First Congregational Church. A separate grant-funded project will continue the sidewalks, lighting and crosswalks to the Library. Up on the hill another grant will allow us to get the sidewalk from the middle school to Ripley Hill. This summer we also will be starting a grant-funded project to reconstruct sections of Lake and Cross Streets to improve pedestrian safety and water quality discharge into the lake. The Road Bond work will continue: watch for an update via an e-blast.

The lake gate replacement is in the permitting stage and work is planned for fall to avoid summer boating impacts. An aggressive aquatic invasive species named Hydrilla was found in our lake and after searching a colony was found near the island in the north end of the lake. CT DEEP is evaluating options for treatment/removal.

The creation of the Town of Coventry Fire/EMS Department continues to be implemented. Coventry Volunteer Fire

Association has voted to turn over their license to provide ambulance services to the Town effective July 1. Severe staffing shortages are occurring to the point where a staffing agency for day-time shifts is being considered. Please consider joining to become a volunteer EMT to provide this essential service. Thank you to all who have and continue to provide volunteer service. Contact Noel Waite, Fire/EMS Administrator, to get more information. Call 860-742-4064 or email nwaite@coventryct.org.

Don't forget to stay in touch with your Town by signing up for monthly e-blasts in the "Notify Me" section of the Town website at www.coventryct.org. For fast-breaking news, consider "friending" the Town Manager's Facebook page, as well as pages by the Coventry Police Department, Coventry Human Services, Coventry Youth Services, Coventry Parks & Recreation and Coventry Farmers' Market at Hale Homestead. This is your town — enjoy living here by participation.

SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE

In November the Town of Coventry as a Clean Energy Community was awarded a Silver level award by CT Green Bank. They shared some interesting statistics on the impact of both Town and private projects. Since 2012 we have had 100 completed energy projects, deployed 1,248 kw of power generation and saving 35 MMBTU in energy, avoiding 16,925 tons of co². This means we rank third in the State on a per-capita basis in investing in clean energy and 12th in per capita for the clean energy deployed (kw).

A word about the Town and School energy projects. We have added solar to all four schools, Public Works, Town Hall, Police and CVFA fire house (NCVFD is coming) using something called a power purchase agreement (PPA). Under those 20-year agreements the Town and schools pay a fixed cost (below market) for the power generated. In other words we did not put capital up front or pay only for what we use (no risk) and have no maintenance responsibilities. This PPA approach allows us to take avail of tax incentives we wouldn't otherwise qualify for. We will have long-term electrical pricing stability.

The Town also has worked with Eversource to install (free of charge) LED street lights on Main Street and Boston Turnpike. Within five years all streetlights statewide will be LED. They have 50-70% energy and co² savings, over twice the life of high-pressure sodium, do not contain mercury or lead (unlike HPS) and they have a better Color Reading Index (a higher CRI indicates better recognition of objects) and have greater visibility in rain and fog. The good news is this free changeover for these two roads will save several thousand dollars a year.

Using grants from our citizens conducting Home Energy Solutions audits and installing solar power we were able to install solar-powered park lights and LED conversions in Patriots Park. Our Energy Committee urges you to get a home energy audit by going to www.energizect.com. You can save energy and money.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4066

The 2nd installment for real estate taxes are due January 1, 2016. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2016. Real Estate tax bills are not mailed out for this installment; please use the second payment portion of the 3-part bill that you received in July.

Supplemental Motor Vehicle bills for a vehicle purchased, registered or plates transferred after October 1, 2014 and before August 1, 2015 were mailed in mid December and are due January 1, 2016. The last day to pay without interest is February 1, 2016. If payment is received after February 1, 2016, the Real Estate and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills become delinquent and are immediately subject to 3% interest. From then on, interest is added at the rate of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Please remember that the Webster Lockbox address in Hartford, printed on your original bills, will only process mailed payments for **CURRENT TAX BILLS**: Real Estate tax due January 2016 and Supplemental Car tax due January 2016. All other payments for any delinquent bills or partial payments will be processed at the Coventry Tax office 1712 Main St. in Coventry.

On-line credit card payments for tax, sewer and trash bills are processed by Official Payments Corporation. When paying by credit card, you will need your bill number, tax and updated interest amount and Coventry's jurisdiction code (1721). From the Collector's page on the Town's website, there is a Quick Link to Find Your Bill or you may call the tax office for these details including the toll free number and

web address for Official Payments Corp. A link to Official Payments Corp. web site can be found on the Town's web page: www.Coventryct.org.

Taxpayers have an additional online payment option for those wishing to pay by check/debit (EFT). You will need to know the Grand List date and list number of each bill you pay. If you cannot find your bill, check the Quick Link to Find Your Bill from the Collector's page on the website. You may need to contact this office to obtain or verify this information. From the Tax Collector's page on the Town's website, choose payments from bank account for this preference. This will connect you to Webster Bank's payment link site. You can save time, gas, postage and the inconvenience of driving in bad weather by paying online or by phone.

Taxpayers owing delinquent motor vehicles taxes must pay all motor vehicle taxes by cash or money order for an immediate DMV clearance. Payments by personal check will result in a delay of ten (10) business days for the DMV clearance. On line payments will result in a delay of three (3) business days from the day your payment is processed by the Tax Office for a DMV clearance.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR: **JANUARY**-Real Estate 2nd installment, Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable. **MAY**-Sewer Assessment fee-1st installment. **JULY**- Real Estate 1st installment, and Regular Motor Vehicle, Personal Property and COVRRR- annual (single) installment. **SEPTEMBER**- Sewer User fee- annual (single) installment. **NOVEMBER**- Sewer Assessment fee-2nd installment. Questions? Please call the office.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

860-742-4067

Information regarding any assessments is available in our office or at the following web sites:

www.vgsi.com – Property Record Cards for Real Estate

www.coventryct.org – General departmental information including forms and applications

www.coventry.mapxpress.net – Geographical Information System (Maps)

The Elderly or Totally Disabled Homeowner Program begins February 1, 2016, and applications are being accepted until May 15, 2016. Our office will be sending reminder letters by the end of January 2016 to those people who have to re-file this year. Remember that this program is income driven from the state and income guidelines are set by the state for both single and married individuals. Please call if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2015 Federal Income tax return.

The Additional Veterans Program also starts February 1, 2016 and applications are accepted until October 1, 2016. A DD214 must have been filed with the Town Clerk prior to **October 1st, 2015** to be eligible for this additional exemption. If you have already filed and did not receive a letter from our office, you do not need to re-file. You will receive your exemption automatically. For additional veteran's benefits, please call if your income is less than \$42,900 if married, or less than \$35,200 if single, both must include Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income from your 2015 Federal Income tax return.

You will be asked to provide proof of all the income documentation regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biannually.

The Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting in March of 2016. Appeal **applications must be filed no later than February 20, 2016**. The board is required to here all appeals concerning Motor Vehicle, Personal Property or Real Estate. Applications are available in the Assessor's Office or online at www.coventryct.org.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

860-742-7966

SHARE YOUR TALENTS: Serve on a Board or Commission. The following Boards/Commissions currently have vacancies:

Municipal Historian
Conservation Commission
Coventryvision Committee
HUD Housing Rehab/Fair Housing Committee
Library Expansion Building Committee Alt.
Parks & Recreation Committee
Ad-Hoc Farmers Market Operating Committee
WACAP Board of Directors
Veterans Memorial Committee
Capitol Region Council of Governments
Personnel Appeals Board



You can always get an up to date list of vacancies our website www.coventryct.org.

Submit your name to any of the following: *Thomas Pope, Town Council Steering Committee & Republican Town Committee (860-742-3231), Dorothy M. Grady Democratic Town Committee, (860-742-0449) or Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk (860-742-7966).*

"Statement of Interest to Serve on a Board or Commission" forms are also available on our website at www.coventryct.org. From the Home Page, click on Your Government on the green heading then, click on Boards & Commissions, there you will be able to fill out your form online or download the form and mail to Town Clerk, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238. Also, there you will be able to read descriptions of the Boards and Commissions, and view the current vacancy list.

Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend

The Coventry Conservation Commission is sponsoring the annual "Stone Wall Maintenance Weekend" on April 2-3 (rain date April 9-10). This would be a perfect time for property owners to do some maintenance to increase the visibility of stone walls on their property.

Many of the stone walls throughout Coventry are in disrepair and/or are overgrown with brush and invasive plants. Homeowners can improve the "curb appeal" of their property by sprucing up their stone walls, especially those that border town roads. This can be turned into a great community project for neighborhoods or community service groups. The Coventry Conservation Corps will participate by sending a work crew to some town-owned property with stone walls in need of maintenance.

These beautiful landforms are integrated into our rural landscape and should be valued and preserved. Every stone wall has its own unique character and adds to rural character of our town. Info: 860-742-4062.

*Congratulations to 2015's #1 Dog Lucie and her owner Steven Roberson!
Look for details on the 2016 Top Dog contest in the Spring newsletter!*

SPORT LICENSES - 2016 Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or from the DEEP website www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. Remember, all licenses expire annually on **December 31st** except Lifetime Licenses and Handicapped Licenses issued before October 1, 2009.

The DEEP also has the latest Connecticut Wildlife magazine full of stories and color pictures online at <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/wildlife/flip/CWmagazine/CWmagazine.html>

Connecticut Duck Stamp Art Contest: Wildlife artists are encouraged to enter artwork that depicts a waterfowl species (duck or goose) that occurs in Connecticut. The winning artwork will be featured on the 2017 Connecticut Duck Stamp.

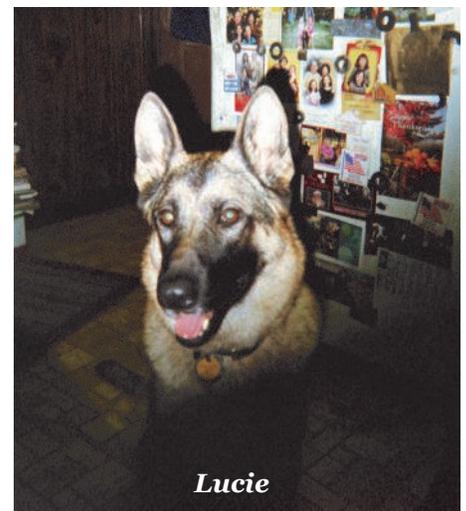
Look for DEEP CT Fish and Wildlife on Facebook!! Information on fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, natural history and conservation of Connecticut's fish and wildlife species.

DOG LICENSES-Don't let your Doggie get caught without one! Any dog 6 months of age and over needs to have a current rabies certificate and be licensed in the town you live in.

*\$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs (certificate of spay or neuter is needed)

*\$19.00 for unaltered dogs

*Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.



Lucie

SMALL BILLS PLEASE!

We appreciate bills **no larger** than a \$20. We do not keep large quantities of cash to make change! At this time we do not accept credit or debit cards.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

860-742-4064

Let's hope that Mother Nature is kind to us this winter as we all recover from last winter's barrage of snowfall in mid-January into February. As New Englanders, we know all too well that, snow storms can severely damage our electrical distribution system and change the landscape of our communities with downed trees and heavy snow loads. Last year in particular with the warm bright

- DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.
- Don't forget to clear paths to gas tanks and fill pipes for you oil tanks. Many suppliers will no longer deliver if paths are not cleared to these areas and this can potentially leave you in a chilly predicament.
- Locate portable generators

DO NOT try to heat your dwelling with unvented heating equipment.

sunny days and frigid blustery nights, we saw the effects of thaw and freeze cycles in the way of many homeowners experiencing ice dam situations. The following tips may help to keep us safe and protect our properties.

- Keep on top of the snow and roof rake regularly to allow for the roof to fully thaw during a warm day and possibly reduce the effects of the freeze cycle at night.
- If ice dams are an issue for you and you have been vigilant with excess snow removal on your roof, it can possibly be an issue of not enough, too much or improperly installed insulation.
- Keep areas around stand-by generator free and clear of snow.

outside and away from windows, doors and vents.

- Have generator connections installed by a licensed electrician. Proper permits and inspections can eliminate the potential to back feed utility lines.
- Shut portable generators down and let unit cool down prior to refueling.
- When power is lost, try to remember to shut off your main breaker and individual circuit breakers. During prolonged outages, we may not remember what appliances may have been on when the power was lost.

HAVE A SAFE & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUILD IN THE SPRING OR SUMMER?

Code requirements that were accepted as of March, 2013 makes the review process even more rigorous. Please consider submitting your permit application in the wintertime to allow the time necessary to go through the review process. Once approved, the permit will be valid as long as work is **started** within six months!

EVENT SIGNS - READ THIS!!

You must have a permit from the Land Use Office (860) 742-4062 to place an event sign on the Town Green on Route 31 at Route 44 (First Niagara Bank). They will not permit any commercial signs. Absolutely no signs can be placed on the Town Green on Stage Road at Route 44 (across from Highland Park Market) or the Town Green on Lake Street (across from Patriots Park).

TREATING "CLEAN" WATER:

Sewer users are reminded that sump pumps, roof leaders, yard drains, etc. should not be connected to the sewer system. These sources of clean water add up, especially during rainstorms, and push our system past its design capacity. The simplest way to get rid of clean water is to pipe/pump it onto the ground away from the road. If this is not an option you may obtain a no fee road cut permit from the Town Engineer's office (860-742-4078) and tie into the Town's storm drain system if available.

Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program

The Town of Coventry is interested in applying for a grant to continue its Housing Rehabilitation Program that funds repair projects that include, but are not limited to: septic systems, roofing and siding, structural deficiencies, replacement windows, insulation, plumbing, electrical and heating systems. Low-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is no interest and no payments until the property changes ownership. Moderate-income eligible applicants will receive a loan that is 2/3 no interest and no payments until the property transfers ownership and 1/3 zero percent interest paid over ten years in monthly installments. **To be eligible, you must have homeowner's insurance, enough equity in the property to cover the loan amount, be current on town taxes, and the household yearly gross income must not exceed amounts below:**

Number in Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Low Income	30,650	35,000	39,400	43,750	47,250	50,750	54,250	57,750
Moderate Income	46,100	52,650	59,250	65,800	71,100	76,350	81,600	86,900



For more information or to request an application, contact Peter Huckins, Program Coordinator, at 860-456-0782. All Information provided to the Housing Rehab Program will be confidential.



ROAD WORK UPDATE:

Road/Hardscape Bond:

The first year of the Road/Hardscape Bond has been completed. Improvements were made to the following roadways: North River, Cedar Swamp, Vernon Branch, Grant Hill, North River, Springdale, Flanders, Flanders River and Babcock Hill. Reconstruction of the Town Hall and CHS parking lots and construction of the Pre-School parking lot has also been completed.

Drainage improvements to Mountain Ridge, Timber Trail, Tall Oak and Wildwood have been completed.

Spring of 2016 will include improvements to the following roadways: Sections of South, South River, Case, Zeya, Satari, Noor and Heather. Selected town roads in the following associations will also be scheduled for improvements: Gerald Park, Waterfront Manor, Waterfront Heights and Actors Colony.

Village Road Reconstruction:

Phase I of the village reconstruction is complete. Mason, Wall and Prospect are complete to a binder course. Phase II will follow in spring of 2016 with final paving in summer 2016.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is expected to award the Main Street Reconstruction Project (CDOT # 32-130) to RED Technologies by the end of December 2015. The Project is anticipated to start towards the end of March or early April, depending on the weather conditions. The Project involves the complete reconstruction of Main Street from the First Congregational Church to the intersection of Lake Street and Stonehouse Road. Vertical and horizontal roadway alignment and significant stormwater improvements will be implemented along with streetscape amenities and is expected to take two construction seasons. Completion date is scheduled for November 2017.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

860-742-6588

Snow Removal: The Public Works Department at the Town of Coventry generally attempts to treat the surface of town roads just before or during the first one half inch of snow falls. In keeping with state of the art anti-icing protocols, treated salt is generally all that is utilized. Treating of roadways is adjusted to maintain safety within the constraints of budgets, prevailing conditions, and resources available. There is a lag time from chemical application to mechanical removal that varies with each storm, so the frequency of seeing a snow plow may seem different than that used for sand/salt mixtures used in the past, and may even vary storm to storm. We are now able to track and locate our main plows to better handle emergency situations.

Remember the safest way to travel during inclement weather is not to travel at all.

WINTER TIPS

Parking on town roads and town owned parking lots is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. The Public Works Department may also issue no parking bans that will not allow any parking on the roads and lots throughout the town. You may elect to receive emails or phone messages regarding parking bans and snow information by clicking on 'Notify Me' on the town's website, Coventryct.org, or get your news the old fashioned way by listening to local radio and watching area television stations for information.

Remove basketball hoops from road right of way so as not to hinder snow removal. They are illegal anyway.

It is helpful to mark edges of property that are close to the right of way with reflective snow markers. Many times it is difficult to distinguish the edge of the roadway when snow has blanketed the area.

Do not discharge sump pumps into any roadway. This is the cause of many localized icing conditions!

Placing snow in the road is dangerous, and can include penalties up to a lien against your property. A Town ordinance obligates the property owner, so if your driveway contractor or neighbor deposits snow in the road from your property, you are still held

responsible. It only takes a few more minutes to push it up beyond a curb line or stockpile it on some unused land away from the travel portion of the roadway.

Remember the safest way to travel during inclement weather is not to travel at all. If you must travel, reduce speeds, and use caution appropriate for prevailing conditions.

Any questions, issues or concerns should be directed to the Superintendent of Operations, Doug Reese at dreese@coventryct.org.

Each winter, mailboxes may be damaged during winter maintenance operations. More often than not, damage to mailboxes is caused by snow pushing against weakened posts or hardware. If you can move your mailbox with your hand, it probably needs maintenance. Take the time to make any repairs needed so your mailbox will be strong enough to survive the winter. Proper maintenance may help to prevent damage that results in delayed mail delivery, or worse, having to make alternate delivery arrangements. Place a deflector just before the mailbox to knock the snow down before it hits the mailbox.

The town's policy is to repair mailboxes **only** when the plow truck physically hits the mailbox – not when the snow that comes off of the plow strikes the mailbox.

TRANSFER STATION

325 Main Street

Hours of operation: every Thursday December through March 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and every Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed holidays and during significant snowstorms. Proof of residency is required.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Appliances with CFC's (Freon) \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
- Tires – automobile size – on or off rim \$5 each.

Materials acceptable no cost:

- All Electronics
- Appliances without CFC's (Freon)
- Scrap metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).
- Gas grill propane tanks for recycling
- Corrugated cardboard in the specially marked cardboard dumpster
- Leaves for composting
- Textiles

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Garbage or recyclable items picked up curbside
- Grass clippings
- Furniture
- Hazardous waste

Commercial Users Must Remember this facility is not intended for commercial uses although small repair/remodeling contractors doing work for Coventry residents may be allowed limited use to dispose of materials incidental to their work within the limits of the Town of Coventry. Proof of residency and **building permits, as applicable**, will be checked as part of normal facility operations to insure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.

Call Public Works at 860-742-6588 for details or check your COVRRR CALENDAR.

The Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility will reopen on April 16th, 2016.

Optional Services by All American Waste (rates apply through 7/31/16): The cost of "as-scheduled" curbside pickup of oversized waste such as mattresses, bureaus or couch, per pickup, and transportation shall be \$175 for three items, \$225 for six items and \$350 for up to ten items per instance.

DUMPSTERS - For major cleanup projects, the current COVRRR contract with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6, 15 and 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this special rate. Dumpsters are for up to 30 days. After 30 days a \$5/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by the residents for special projects complying with the COVRRR regulations and are not to be used for disposal of normal municipal solid waste.

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$150 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$175 haul / \$80 ton of disposal

From the Tree Warden: Please contact the Tree Warden, Mark Kiefer, if you have any questions pertaining to anything related to trees owned by the Town of Coventry. Please remember as a town policy we generally do not remove healthy trees. **All Requests** for tree removal/trimming **MUST** be made **IN**

WRITING to the Tree Warden. You may mail to Coventry DPW at 1712 Main Street, e-mail to mkiefer@coventryct.org, fax (860) 742-5467 or hand deliver to 100 Olsen Farm Road or the Town Hall. Include your name, address, phone #, tree location and a brief description of your request.

WPCA UPDATE:

- Main St. reconstruction in the Village is scheduled to begin in spring of 2016 and includes over \$300,000 of sewer relocation work. The majority of this cost will be paid by the State. Please expect delays if you travel through the Village.

- Lake and Cross Streets are scheduled to be reconstructed in spring of 2016. A short sewer extension is proposed on Lake Road and will serve 2 properties. Completing the sewer work prior to road reconstruction will save the significant expense of temporary and permanent pavement patching. The cost of the sewer extension will be recovered from new sewer assessments.

- During summer/fall of 2015 we replaced 4 failing valves at the Treatment Plant, installed a larger pump, and performed repairs to one of the main clarifier/digester tanks. We rehabbed 14 manholes in the Village and raised several sunken manholes.

Sewer Blockages/Ownership/CBYD: If your sewer line is draining slowly and/or backing up and you believe the problem is in the sewer main please call Public Works at 860-742-6588 (M-F 7-3) or Coventry Police at 860-742-7331 outside of normal work hours. They will dispatch someone from the sewer department to investigate. The Town owns and is responsible for the sewer mains under the road and you are responsible for sewer lines on your property. For this reason we mark the location of Town owned sewers with green paint/flags when a CBYD request is submitted but **do not** mark sewers on private property. If you (or your contractor) plan on doing any digging please contact us and we'll provide a copy of your sewer 'as-built' plan.

Sewer Connections: If you have not yet connected to sewers please contact Mike Ruef at 860-742-4064 or email mruef@coventryct.org for more information. Low interest/deferred loans for sewer connections may be available for homes that meet federal income guidelines.

TRASH & RECYCLING

Christmas tree disposal:

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the Transfer Station near the intersection of Plains Roads & Rt. 31 when the facility is open or there are two un-staffed sites: Laidlaw Park on Merrow Road and the Miller Richardson Athletic Field (take Route 31 to South Street Extension then a right at the stop sign) look for the signs. Please leave only the tree; take plastic bags/netting home to dispose with normal garbage. The trees will be chipped up and used in landscaping next spring. All American Waste will not pick up trees curbside.

Textile Recycling:

The Town is starting its second year of a contract, through CCSWA / CRCOG, with Bay State Textile for Textile Recycling. Acceptable items for recycling through this program are footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. It is important, however, that they be clean and dry. Recycling these materials should, conceivably, reduce our tonnage disposal fees. A trailer size collection box is available at the town's transfer station and a typical size clothing drop box available at the Public Works Department on Olsen Farm Road. We have started to receive revenues averaging \$40 / month.

Coventry's Best-Kept Secret— "In-yard" trash/recycling service available:

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their tipper carts picked up right at their back door? No more struggling to roll them to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved). Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to find out if you or someone you know might qualify.

The following general guidance is provided to assist you in properly disposing of your solid wastes and preparing your recyclables for pickup by the Town's contracted hauler, All American Waste. Detailed information is available at the Public Works garage at 100 Olsen Farm Road. If you have specific questions please contact the Public Works Department at (860) 742-6588 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If materials are not picked up from the curbside, residents are asked to please call All American Waste ASAP at (860) 289-7850 to give them a chance to correct the problem or provide information on why the item was left.

Waste acceptable for Weekly pickup in gray tipper cart:

- Household garbage and solid wastes
- Plastic bags

Recyclable items acceptable for bi-weekly pickup in blue tipper cart:

- ***NO PLASTIC BAGS***
- newspapers/catalogs/magazines
- direct mail/envelopes (all types)
- paper/paperboard (i.e. cereal or shoe boxes)
- shredded paper (can be put in paper bag)
- milk & juice cartons (i.e. aseptic packaging)
- cardboard/brown paper bags
- plastic bottles/plastic containers #s 1-7
- soda/juice/water bottles (glass or plastic)
- food containers
- glass bottles/jars (any color)
- aluminum cans/clean foil
- metal cans (tin/steel/aluminum)



Holiday Pickup Schedule Changes ONLY for the following date:

No service on Memorial Day May 30, 2016.

Resume service May 31, June 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Next to the carts:

- Automotive batteries; one bi-weekly.
- Auto or light truck tire; removed from rim, one per week

Used motor oil and antifreeze should be brought to the Public Works Facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road. The new facility is equipped with a used motor oil furnace. Please call (860) 742-6588 for more info.

Material acceptable for monthly oversized waste pickup: (Non metal material that is too large to be placed in your tipper cart, of residential nature such as furniture) Residents are allowed to place up to **three** non-metal oversized waste items (for example: table, couch, mattress) at the curb each month for collection as part of the program. No electronics, they must go to the transfer station. **All residents need to place their items at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.** This collection may/may not follow the daily waste & recycling pickup schedule.

- Furniture such as table, couch or mattress
- Brush; trimmed to 3ft. lengths, bundled & tied, 30-lbs. maximum.
- Wood lumber; length & width less than 4 ft., less than 4 in. nominal size, 30-lbs. maximum

Quarterly Curbside Metal Pickup has been discontinued.

- Scrap Metal and appliances must be brought to the Coventry Transfer Station at 325 Main Street at no cost. Appliances with CFC's (Freon) are \$10 each.
- Antifreeze must be brought to Coventry Department of Public Works at 100 Olsen Farm Road. Please call (860) 742-6588 Monday through Friday 7 am to 3 pm for more info.

LAND USE OFFICE

860-742-4062

COVENTRY ARTS GUILD

Through the development of a Strategic Arts Plan for the Town made possible by a grant from the State of CT Office of the Arts, the Coventry Arts Guild has been formed. The mission of the Coventry Arts Guild is to enrich and connect artists and arts enthusiasts with the general public by creating opportunities for performing, literary and visual artists to share knowledge and expertise, educate and teach, as well as produce and market their work for the enrichment and enjoyment of the community. The Guild has been meeting monthly since April and are in the process of developing and executing the Plan with the assistance of a consultant paid for by the grant. The Guild is also planning collaborative events for 2016.

Please visit and like their Facebook page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/coventryartsguild>.

Please contact Justin Trzaskos at justin.trzaskos@gmail.com or Eric Trott at etrott@coventryct.org 860-742-4062 for more information.

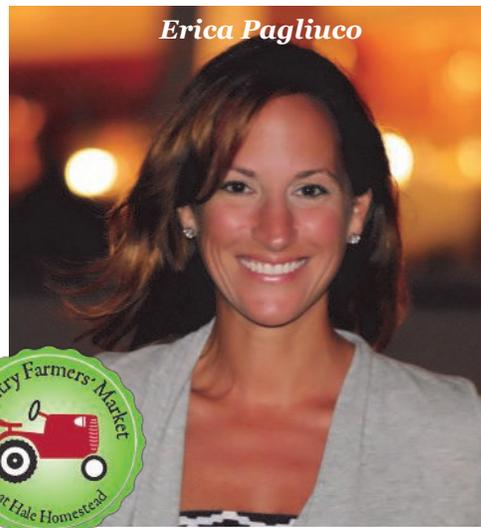


HIGH SCHOOL ADOPT A ROAD VOLUNTEERS: Mr. Kendall's Civics class participated in their annual Adopt-a-Road clean-up of local roads earlier this fall, including Ripley Hill Road, Root Road, Cooper Lane, sections of Swamp Road, section of RTE 44, and Love Lane. Special thanks to the following students who participated and help to keep Coventry clean: Patrick Lynch, Megan Lung, Ashley Parementer, Brianna Piazza, Daytona Rizzo, Samantha Mora, Mark Fortin, Kadin Smith, Shane Gorneault, Nancy Conti, Kaitlyn Manley. Kudos to Mr. Kendall and all the students who participated!

COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET AT HALE HOMESTEAD

The Town continues to prepare for the Farmers' Market next season at the Hale Homestead in 2016. The Town welcomes Erica Pagliuco as the Market Master. She was hired in November and possesses very strong skills in marketing, advertising, public relations, communications and small business operations. In addition, she has been involved with the Town Farmers' Market Subcommittee since its inception and has a keen understanding of the past, current and future Market landscapes. Over the winter, vendor applications will be accepted and considered, volunteer committees will be formed and tasks assigned, and next year's themes and events will be planned. Please visit the Town's website and on the homepage is a link to a dedicated web page for the 2016 Market where one can sign up to receive updates via ongoing newsletters. The page also has a great deal of information that shows the subcommittee's progress over the past several months.

Please contact Erica Pagliuco by email at epagliuco@coventryct.org or 860-742-4062 for more information.



Erica Pagliuco



Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Dr. Greg Bugbee, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, discussed the differences between the 2008 and 2014 surveys on aquatic plants, showing an increase from 19 aquatic plants to 22 with the same two invasive species. Large leaf pond weed and Eurasian milfoil showed marked increases.

Dr. Robert Kortmann, Ecosystems Consulting Services, reported that the lake is very healthy, with good light penetration to 16 feet.

A panel discussed flyboarding. Dr. Leslie Shor, CLA&M, presented videos of flyboards on the lake and outlined benefits and problems. Mike Payton, CT DEEP, explained that CT presently has no laws regulating jetted articulated vessels (JAVs). Dr. Kortmann explained that flyboards mix water differently than boats, as their downward thrust has potential to mix water deeper and may stir up the lake bottom. Ryan Luginbuhl, New England Flyboard, knows of no research on environmental damage caused by flyboards, but welcomes research as he does not want to harm to the lake.

Based on the Forum, the Town Council funded a study by Dr. Kortman at three different depths. The testing showed downward mixing of water, changes in pH, dissolved oxygen and nitrogen and mixing of sediment. Dr. Kortmann suggests that additional testing during the summer would assist in developing management procedures that protect against adverse effects of flyboards.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

860-742-5324



The Food Bank is well stocked and the holiday program was a success with the help and support of donations from the annual "Scouting for Food" through the Boy Scout Troop & Pack 65, who collected and sorted over 4,000 non-perishable items and the Skungamaug Golf Club, owned by Susan & John Motyka, with their "Food in Lieu of Green Fees" event in November.

We are always accepting donations for the Food Bank. The need can vary by the month/season so please call ahead with your donation. The food bank is always in need of stocked with peanut butter/ jelly, cereal, spaghetti sauce, pasta, soup, tuna, and various hygiene and cleaning supplies. Thank you to our local residents, churches, schools, business and civic groups who have made a donation. **Please remember we cannot distribute expired canned items so please check expiration dates.**

If you are in financial crisis and are in need of food, please contact Coventry Human Services to schedule an appointment.

WORRIED ABOUT WINTER HEATING COSTS?

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households, specifically those households whose incomes fall at or below 60 percent of the state median income.

On behalf of eligible households, the winter heating assistance pays for such heating sources as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets. Homeowners and renters may apply. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help conserve energy and lower heating bills.

Appointments can be made at the ACCESS, Inc. (Willimantic area) (860) 450-7423 or contact Coventry Human Services (860) 742-5324 for Coventry residents by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays, space is limited.

OPERATION FUEL, INC.

The Coventry Human Services is a partnering agency with Operation Fuel to accept applications for emergency energy assistance for electric, gas and oil utilities. All other programs must be utilized prior to making application for the program. Please note this is not an entitlement program and applicants will be awarded grants on a first come, first serve basis. Operation Fuel is a non-profit agency.

CLERGY FUEL FUND

Residents wishing to contribute to the "Clergy Fuel Fund" may do so by sending in their donation to the Coventry Human Services c/o Clergy Fuel Fund, 1712 Main

Street, CT 06238. The funds raised goes towards emergency heating costs for Coventry residents who are experiencing financial crisis and residents may be entitled to a one-time emergency delivery. Participants must provide proof of gross income, DSS benefits and liquid assets including: checking, savings, annuities, retirement benefits and proper identification. Approvals are not guaranteed.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army Bell Ringers are coordinated by the Human Services office in partnership with The Salvation Army. Thank you to all our Bell Ringers who donated their time to ring and thank you to all the local businesses that participated ~ Highland Park Market, Dunkin Donuts, Subway, CVS and Walgreens. 90% of all the money raised is returned to the town to help Coventry residents in need of emergency fuel assistance, food, housing and medical assistance, camp scholarships, Back-to-School gift cards and school supplies. This year, residents were encouraged to create a team, choose a team name and the team with the most bell ringing hours was recognized with a token of appreciation.

RENTERS REBATE

The Renters' Rebate Tax Relief Program offered through the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management for the elderly and totally disabled renters in CT will run from April 1, 2016-October 1, 2016. Please remember to retain your 2015 Social Security 1099, SSD, pension, interest, dividend and Income Tax Return, rent/lease, out-of-pocket fuel payments and Eversource Usage History. Applicants must provide proof of information for the 2015 program year. Qualifying income limits will be provided prior to the opening of the program.

Please "like" Coventry Human Services on Facebook and see what's new in the office.

THANK YOU!

We had a very successful Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution. With the support and donations from residents, businesses, schools, PTOs, local banks, grocery store, churches, scouts, clubs, legions and associations this season was very special for many families in need. Prepared meals were delivered by high school student mentors and their mentees to residents of Orchard Hills for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Ryan Ramirez Memorial Fund graciously donated live Christmas trees to 15 families. We would also like to thank the student and adult volunteers who helped us with both distributions, we would not be able to help as many residents without your dedication and hard work!

SENIOR CENTER

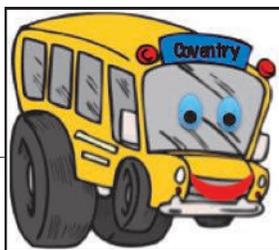
172 Lake Street • 860-742-3525

COME JOIN THE FUN!

The Coventry Senior Center welcomes seniors 60 years and older to enjoy a variety of social, educational and wellness programs. Join us for recreational activities and instructional classes, luncheons and health services. There is no membership fee. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop in to see us at our beautiful location in Patriots Park. To see our monthly calendar and special events, visit our page on the Town website or call to inquire about our mailing list.

HEALTHY FUN!

- Nutrition: Delicious lunches, restaurant meals, pot lucks, and seasonal special events.
- Fitness Programs: Group fitness classes are offered multiple times per week. Exercise equipment overlooking the lake is available daily.
- Healthcare: Wellness nurses provide free blood pressure or blood sugar checks and answer medical questions. Podiatry foot care is also available by appointment.
- Spa Days: Take some time out for professional haircuts or nail clipping at a value price.
- Wellness: Treat yourself to massage therapy or reflexology.



Free Transportation for Coventry Seniors and Disabled Residents

Are you no longer able to drive? Do you need a ride to your doctor? Would you like to go grocery shopping or shopping at the mall? Do you have other errands to do? Would you like to spend a little time at Senior Center?

The Coventry Rides! senior handicap accessible van and handicap accessible minibus will take you where you need to go. We make regular trips to locations in Coventry, Manchester, Vernon, and Tolland.

It's easy and our drivers are the best!

Please call Coventry Senior Center for a ride at least 2 business days ahead.

For rides to the Willimantic Area, please call Dial-A-Ride at 860-456-1460.

Additional volunteer drivers are needed.
Please call the Senior Center for more information.

FREE TAX PREPARATION!

Coventry Senior Center is expanding our tax preparation program through AARP Tax Aide by offering more appointments this year. AARP Tax Aide is a free tax preparation service. Trained volunteers provide private appointments to fully complete your Federal and State tax returns, including electronic submission to the IRS. AARP Tax Aide will be held on Fridays from February 12 through April 8, weather permitting. There will be no tax appointments on Friday, March 25 due to Good Friday. We strongly encourage you to participate in this wonderful service. Call 860-742-3525 to schedule an appointment.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- Senior Center Volunteers: We would love to have you as one of our regular volunteers, whether at the front desk, for special events or to lead a program. If you have any skills or talents you would like to use, we would love to hear from you!
- Transportation Program: Drivers are needed for our Coventry Rides Senior Transportation Program for seniors and disabled residents. This program provides people who can no longer drive with a way to live independently and remain in their own homes. We ask for only one morning per month; weekend and evening drivers are also needed. There are no costs for you to become a driver.

Youth Services

"Like Us" on Facebook!

The Coventry Youth Services page is full of information about community service options for students, workshops, programs/services, and articles related to youth and families.

Clinician Needed - Youth Services is seeking a licensed clinical social worker for a maximum of four hours a week (year round). Qualified candidates must have experience working with youth and families, and be able to address numerous struggles (depression, stress, self-esteem, divorce, substance abuse, etc) that youth in our community may be facing. Please submit your resume to Youth Services, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238, or cmorawitz@coventryct.org.

Youth Job Bank-

For Adults: Could you use some help with snow shoveling? Need a babysitter; lawn mower, or other odd-jobs around the house done? Hire a student from the Youth Job Bank! Youth Job Bank students range in age from 12-18 years old and can assist with yard work services, clean homes, provide animal care, babysit and more!

For Youth: Students in grades 7-12 interested in becoming part of the Job Bank should contact Youth Services to schedule an appointment, where policies and procedures, basic job skills, safety measures and other key components to landing a job will be discussed.

PROMAGANZA! - Now accepting donations of prom dresses, shoes, accessories and services (hair, nails, alternations, etc.) for the 3rd annual Promaganza! This event helps offset expenses for youth at CHS who otherwise might not be able to attend the Junior and Senior proms. Items can be dropped off at Coventry Human Services, 1712 Main Street.

Lending Library - Coventry Youth Services is home to a (free) lending library featuring a variety of topics for teens, adults and parents. Over 100 titles give insight into today's issues around parenting, youth struggles, and tricky conversations. Please stop by Human Services to browse our titles, and check out a book.

Community Service - Human/Youth Services often has a variety of community service opportunities for students (holiday programs, bell ringing, etc) in addition to numerous suggestions of other projects/agencies where students may obtain community service hours.

For more information on any of the programs listed above, please contact Youth Services Coordinator, Crystal Morawitz at 860-742-5324, or email cmorawitz@coventryct.org.

COMING EVENTS & NOTABLE ITEMS

Are you the parent of a three or four year old child that you would like to send to preschool? There are spaces still available for the 2015-2016 school year! The Coventry Early Childhood Center (CECC), a NAEYC accredited preschool, still has several spaces in the ½ day program and in the school day program (6 hours). There is generous financial assistance available to families who qualify because Coventry is a recipient of two State Grants to support high quality early childhood education. A family of 4 can qualify for assistance if they are earning less than \$78,000!

Also, in case you were not aware, CECC moved out of the 1st Congregational Church, where it had been located for more than 40 years this summer and was relocated into the rear wing of the Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School! The new facility, the Hale Early Education Center, will provide the young children of Coventry with exceptional learning experiences for many years to come! Please call the preschool at 860-742-4550 for more information and to see if you qualify.

Coventry STEPS is a team of parents, professionals and community leaders working together to ensure that all Coventry Children are Nurtured, Healthy and Engaged and Successful Learners. For more information on Coventry STEPS and early childhood news, resources and events, please visit our website at: coventrysteps.com or like us on facebook at www.facebook.com/CoventrySTEPS.



ICE FISHING DERBY

January 30, 2016
Patriots Park Lodge
172 Lake Street
9 AM - 12 PM

The CT Department of Environmental Protection is holding the annual ice fishing derby! Come and join us for some winter fun at Coventry Lake. The event is free and no registration is required.

- Prizes will be awarded for the biggest fish!
- This is designed to be a family derby, so bring the entire family out for a morning of fun!
- Ice fishing jigs will be available for use or you can bring your own, and fishing instruction and demos will be available.

In the event of inclement weather or unsafe ice conditions, the event will be rescheduled to Saturday, February 13th. More information: Parks & Recreation Office, 860-742-4068.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS PHONE-A-THON:

The Coventry Scholarship Foundation, a Dollars For Scholars affiliate, will conduct its 24th annual Phone-A-Thon starting Monday, March 14th through Wednesday, March 16. Coventry residents will be called and asked to make a contribution to the tax deductible fund, and businesses will be contacted by letter. Anyone wishing to help with the phone calls or mailings is asked to call 860-742-6633. This is a community event that benefits any graduating senior who is a Coventry resident. Last year over \$50,000 was distributed. Volunteers greatly needed.

COVENTRY GARDEN CLUB:

The Coventry Garden Club welcomes all interested gardeners, experienced and new, to join us for our 2016 season. Our mission is to promote the love of gardening by sharing education, resources, and networking opportunities, while advocating environmental responsibility. Club meetings are held at 7PM on the second Tuesday of the month at the Presbyterian Church in Coventry (Rt. 44 at Trowbridge Rd.) Our winter programs include:

February 9 – First Aid For Our Plants: Joan Allen, a plant diagnostician with the Home and Garden Education Center (a division of the UConn Cooperative Extension System) will help us discover a variety of plant problems and how to repair or prevent them with organic controls.

March 8 – Fifty Ways to Use a Dandelion: Looking for ways to learn to love a dandelion? Come listen to Pam Brundage explain all the wonderful tricks that familiar face in our yards is hiding under its petals and up its green sleeves.

For more information, call Kit Bensen - 860-498-0115, or e-mail Dennis Burns - ddendia@yahoo.com.



Get monthly notices of upcoming events by subscribing to the Town's e-blast. Visit the "Notify Me" section of the website at www.coventryct.org and click the box next to "Coventry Community Update."

THANK YOU FROM THE ORGANIZERS OF COVENTRY'S CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE: A BIG Coventry Christmas in the Village Thank You to all businesses, organizations, students, residents, officials who were part of making this event another happy and successful time for all! The Lions Club thanks its sponsors, donors and folks who generously contributed Christmas Trees for its Auction/Festival. The Planning group WELCOMES your comments, ideas, thoughts on the day...and is already beginning to come together for next year. Please go to the Coventry Christmas in the Village Facebook page or call 860-918-5957 or 860-617-3588 to do so and if you want to join in on the planning fun.



BOOTH & DIMOCK MEMORIAL LIBRARY

1134 Main Street • 860-742-7606 • www.CoventryPL.org

LIBRARY PROGRAMS:

Tea and Chocolate: Kim Larkin of Klassic Kreations Gourmet will offer samplings of three teas, and two tea infused baked goods. She will pair them with several chocolate varieties while discussing the history of tea and chocolate, and the health benefits of each. Registration requested. Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 pm.

Coloring, Coffee, and Conversation: Coloring for adults has been found to reduce stress, foster a sense of well-being and helps you relax. Stop by the Library for a cup of coffee, some good conversation and a morning spent coloring. Tuesdays at 11:00 am through February 23.

Book Clubs: Always accepting new members, the Library book clubs cover a variety of interests. Join the **Wednesday Night Book Club** (the third Wednesday of the month), **Mystery Book Club** (the fourth Thursday of the month) or the **Cookbook Club** (the first Thursday of the month). Books are available the main desk.

Board to Death: Are you looking for a larger group to game with? A change to try out new and different games? Then help us get our table-top gaming club off to a great start. Come for great games like *Ticket to Ride*, *Settlers of Catan*, *Munchkin*, *Pandemic*, and more. Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 pm and Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 pm.

For Teens:

Homework Help: Having trouble concentrating at home? Need help digging up resources for a research project or paper? Maybe you just want help with MLA formatting and citations? The library is here to help! Make an appointment Tuesday through Friday for some one-on-one time with a librarian! We know our way around effective web searching and MLA format and citation style, and are never too busy to help.

Tuesday Afternoon Crafts: Every Tuesday, come to the Teen Zone for some crafts! Challenge yourself with something new and express your creativity! Projects will be announced in the

Teen Zone. Every Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 pm.

Friday Gaming Afternoons: The Teen Zone is the place to be for games of all kinds. Drop in each week for an afternoon of gaming on Fridays from 3:00pm - 5:00 pm. Each week there is a theme: Minecraft, tabletop games, Magic: The Gathering or video games. We hope to see you there.

For Children:

Tuesday Morning Story Times: Tiny Tots Storytime for ages birth to 35 months and their caregivers that focuses on enriching your young child's life and supporting pre-literacy with nursery rhymes, songs, activities, and books. Tuesdays at 10:15 am through Feb. 9.

Pre-School Storytime for ages 3-5 and their caregivers that includes books, songs, rhymes, and a small craft or activity and helps to develop school ready skills. Tuesdays at 11:30 am through Feb. 9.

Music & Movement: Join us for an active music enriched program for anyone under the age of 5! Music & Movement is a noisy half hour of songs, dance and musical instruments. Parents are encouraged to participate with their young one to model active play. This fun program is designed to share new concepts with your child such as following directions, rhyme and rhythm, and creative play. Wednesdays 10:30 am – 11:30 am Jan. 20 - Feb. 24 (6 weeks).

After School Club: A new club for school age kids (K-5) that will meet every other week. Join us for a different project or activity each week! Check our Facebook page or website for information on what we plan to do each week. Wednesdays at 4:00 pm on Jan 20, Feb 3 & 17.

Drive in Movie: Make and decorate a cardboard box car and then settle in to watch *Inside Out*. Feel free to bring snacks or any extra car making supplies you may want. Cardboard boxes and some supplies provided. Wednesday, January 27. Car making starts at 2:30 pm, movie at 3:00 pm.

NEWS & REMINDERS

Library Material Delivery:

Are you unable to visit the library, but would still like to take advantage of the thousands of books, audio-books, movies, magazines or more? The Library offered monthly delivery of library materials to home bound individuals. Call the library at 860-742-7606 for details or to sign up for this program.

Save Money This Winter!

The Library has over 3,000 DVDs: blockbusters, documentaries and TV Series. Borrow one (or seven at a time) from us (for FREE!) and save money with a movie night at home!

Technology Assistance Programs and Services

One-on-One Tech Help:

Do you have a new smartphone or tablet? Are you looking to learn how to use a new computer or mobile program? Do you want to learn how to better use a computer or smartphone? Sign up for a Tech Help session! Sessions typically last 30-45 minutes and cover topics such as: learning new programs like Microsoft Publisher and Excel; introduction to 3D printing; introduction to computer and Internet use; smartphone use; using the library's online catalog; downloading free library ebooks and more. Call the library at 860-742-7606 to speak with a staff member with questions or to sign up for an appointment!

Startup Programs:

Getting started guides on iOS, Android and other topics are offered periodically and upon demand. Please visit the library website for upcoming programs and speak to staff about desired topics.

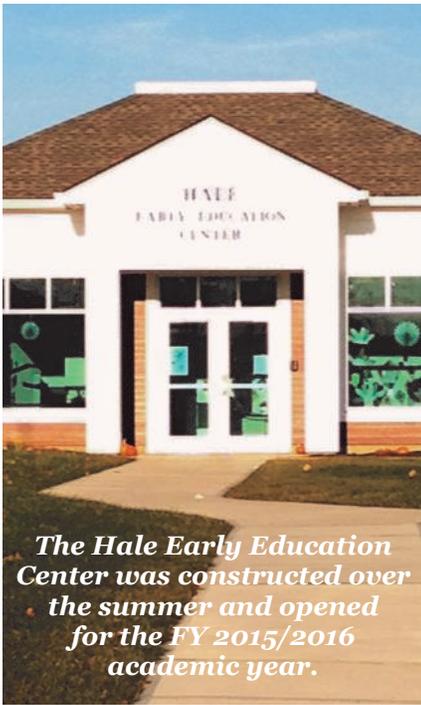
Take Your Child to the Library Day— February 6, 2016:

Family story time and craft activities throughout the day from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION

860-742-7317



The Hale Early Education Center was constructed over the summer and opened for the FY 2015/2016 academic year.

Coventry Board of Education would like to welcome and congratulate our two newly elected members, Frank Infante and Michael Griswold! The 2015-2017 Board of Education seats are as follows: William Oros, Chairman; Jennifer Beausoleil, Vice-Chairman; Michael Sobol, Secretary; Michael Griswold; Frank Infante; Mary Kortmann; and Eugene Marchand.

MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. Regular Board meetings for 2016 are: January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25, March 10, March 31, April 27, May 12, May 26, June 9,

June 23, July 21, August 11, August 25, September 8, September 29, October 13, October 27, November 10, and December 8. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:30 p.m.

GOALS: 1) Identify, define, and measure the critical skills and attributes that are required for success and align systems to continuously improve student performance and achievement; 2) Maintain and promote a positive and respectful learning community; 3) Recruit, retain and develop high quality staff at every level.

“It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century.”

OPEN DOOR MEETINGS

2015-2016: Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone. As the Superintendent of Schools, one of my initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. I invite you to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of my remaining Open Door meetings this school year.

- Tuesday, February 2 at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 21 at 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m.

All of these informal gatherings will be held in the Administration Building conference room at 1700 Main Street. If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled events, but would still like to meet, please phone our office at 860-742-7317 x2. Thank you!

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2015-2016 GOALS

It is the mission of the Coventry Public Schools to prepare every student for life, learning and work in the 21st century. Embracing this vision, we began the 2015-2016 year with a continued focus on technology initiatives, instructional improvement and creating a learning environment where students and staff feel safe and respected.

Goals and plans of each school administrator are in support of the Board of Education goals for the Coventry Public Schools. Below are excerpts from goals across the district which represent just a few of the many plans for improvement for the 2015-2016 school year.

Coventry Grammar School (CGS):

- Continue to partner with the School Readiness Council, STEPS and the Hale Early Education Center to strengthen the support to students and families in the community as they transition to the Coventry Grammar School.
- Expand opportunities for communication with families through the development of parent resource hours each trimester.
- Pilot in-class professional development in every classroom to strengthen the components of reading instruction.

George Hersey Robertson School (GHR):

- Refine our Daily 5 reading framework and writer's workshop to ensure the use of student checklists, learning progressions, and rubrics to provide students with frequent and meaningful feedback to improve student achievement.
- Collaborate with the GHR Parent Community to plan programs and activities that foster school spirit, promote reading, and support school initiatives to include parent resource evenings.
- Increase technology coaching opportunities for teachers in to ensure meaningful integration of technology in all areas.

GOALS, CONT.

Capt. Nathan Hale School (CNH):

- Continue to develop and align English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies curricula, and formative and performance based assessments to the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS) and Smarter Balanced Assessment across content areas.
- Continue work with the CNH Student Council that will support and promote a positive school culture that includes promoting school wide events that enhance student learning, school spirit and a stronger sense of community for the middle school as a whole.
- Maintain partnerships with local universities and colleges through supporting student teacher assignments and practicums, internships and supporting ongoing UCONN research opportunities across disciplines.

Coventry High School (CHS)

- Continue implementation of the iPad initiative in grades 9-12 to enhance students' development of 21st century learning skills and to support identified student learning outcomes.
- Support climate and safety initiatives developed by the student advisory groups to further provide a safe and positive learning environment for Coventry High School.
- Develop customized professional development opportunities aligned with the district mission statement and goals to meet the learning needs of the Coventry High School staff.

As we know, Coventry is a wonderful place to live. In fact, the town had the distinction of being ranked second in *Connecticut Magazine* Town Rankings for Towns with Median Home Values Under \$200,000 this past November. One of the five major factors the magazine takes into consideration is education. We are proud to inform you that our public school system was ranked 4th out of the 43 towns in this category. This is quite an honor which reflects the hard work and dedication of all of the public school employees. We will continue to maintain high standards and levels of achievement in order to ensure that the education Coventry students receive is top notch.

Currently, our technology team is working to design and provide workshops concerning technology and learning to members of the Coventry learning community. They will also survey staff and collaborate with district leadership to provide individualized professional development and to ensure the continued effective implementation of iPads into teaching and learning to support the Connecticut Core Standards and 21st century skill development.

Our athletics department is working to develop an Extra Assistance Plan (EAP) for student athletes who are in need of academic assistance. Also, they will continue to explore opportunities that teach sportsmanship, appropriate behavior, ethics, values, character development, leadership, and development of healthy lifestyles to all student-athletes and coaches.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES: Coventry Public Schools has always benefited from the generous efforts and talents of community and parent volunteers. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with our school community, please contact one of the four principals.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences. **Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes:** Please visit our website at www.coventrypublicschools.org for additional information. **Cafeteria Substitutes:** Call Beth Pratt at 742-4535. **Bus Drivers/Substitutes:** Call M & J Bus Co. at 742-0344.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION

SCHOOL MESSENGER INFORMATION: Keeping families informed is a top priority at Coventry Public Schools. We continue to use a software called SCHOOL MESSENGER for this purpose. This system allows us to send a **telephone message** to families providing important information about school emergencies.

We use SCHOOL MESSENGER to notify families of school emergencies, closings, delayed openings, and unplanned early releases. In the event of an emergency at school, you can have peace of mind knowing that you will be informed as soon as possible by phone. In addition, the system will phone homes if a child is absent from school and the nurse has not received parent notification (attendance call).

CLOSINGS, LATE OPENINGS, UNPLANNED EARLY RELEASES: These announcements are carried on radio stations WILI (98.3 FM, 1400AM), WTIC (96.5 FM, 1080AM), WRCH (100.5 FM), WZMX (93.7), WKSS (95.7), and WWYZ (92.5). Announcements are also carried on the television stations WFSB Channel 3, WVIT Channel 30 (cable channel 4), and WTNH Channel 8.

90 Minute Delay Notes

HEEC/CECC (PreK): No AM Part-day Program; Before Care starts at 8:45 a.m.; School Day Program starts at 10:15 a.m.; Lunch Bunch starts at 11:00 a.m.; PM Program starts at 12:00 p.m.

Grades K - 5: CGS & GHR – 10:00 a.m. start time

Grades 6 - 12: CNH & CHS – 9:10 a.m. start time

Early Release Notes – *Emergency/Weather-related*

HEEC/CECC (PreK): Programs end at 11:00 a.m. (No PM Part-day)

All other grades end at Early Release times

NO afternoon/evening activities on school grounds.

TOWN OF COVENTRY
1712 MAIN STREET
COVENTRY, CT 06238

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON
COVENTRY, CT 06238



TOWN COUNCIL GOALS 2015 – 2017

Town Council provides the oversight and leadership required to establish policies that guide the direction of the Town and ensure the optimum delivery of services to residents in the most cost-effective manner possible. Members of the Town Council serve without compensation and elect their own chairperson and vice chairperson. The policies that are established by the Town Council are delegated to the Office of the Town Manager for execution.

- Fiscal responsibility and allow individuals to keep more of the money they earn. To seek innovative and sustainable solutions for lower taxes.
- Present realistic and affordable budgets
- Promote Economic development
- Assist senior citizens
- Insure proper funding to our schools
- Address the needs of public safety
- To protect the provision of essential services
- To oversee the protection of the Town's investments by maintaining all Town equipment, buildings, and infrastructure
- Explore opportunities to consolidate resources with the goal of improving efficiency
- Increase transparency in government

Adopted: 11/16/2015